

From: Robin Mockett
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 5:08am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am informed that I can comment on the Microsoft settlement by sending an e-mail to your address.

My comment is that the lesser 'punishments' now being imposed on Microsoft are less unjust than the previously-attempted split-up of the company. However, they are still unjust because Microsoft has done nothing wrong and does not deserve any punishment whatsoever.

I am not a Microsoft employee or even very knowledgeable about computers, beyond being able to send e-mail messages (for which I am grateful to Bill Gates and inventors like him), but if I knew more I could probably offer specific technical reasons why punishing his company will hurt the economy and slow the rate of increase in everyone's living standards.

Instead, I will make a simple moral claim that antitrust laws as such are inherently unjust, as explained by Alan Greenspan in essays in Ayn Rand's book, Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal. Antitrust laws in any form constitute a tyrannical element within the government, because (1) they impose punishment on people simply for being productive, and (2) they impose punishment in a manner which cannot be predicted in advance, or which depends on subjective interpretations by judges or government prosecutors. Consequently, the decisions of productive businessmen are controlled by the personal opinions of government agents, rather than objectively written statutes. This makes some of the businessmen produce less because their decisions are blocked, others because they are afraid of unanticipated penalties, and others because they choose to make less effort in such a climate. More importantly, it demeans leaders who deserve gratitude from the rest of us.

Yours sincerely,
Robin Mockett, Ph.D.

Join the world's largest e-mail service with MSN Hotmail.
<http://www.hotmail.com>